

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

**AB 1324 (BASS) – PREVENTING FOSTER YOUTH IDENTITY THEFT**

Foster youth are more vulnerable than the general population to identity theft perpetrated by their unscrupulous parents, relatives and others who have access to their information. On my March 24, 2009 motion, the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with the Director of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Chief Probation Officer, were directed to review whether existing State legislation, Assembly Bill 2985 (Maze), is sufficient to address the problem of foster youth identity theft.

AB 2895 requires that a County welfare department, on behalf of a youth in a foster care placement who reaches his/her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, request a consumer disclosure revealing whether the youth has been a victim of identity theft. If the consumer disclosure reveals any negative items or evidence, this law requires the County welfare department to refer the youth to an approved organization that provides services to identity theft victims. Accordingly, DCFS partnered with the County's Department of Consumer Affairs and private agencies, such as the Alliance for Children's Rights and the Public Counsel Law Center, to help foster youth protect themselves and to help remedy known instances of foster youth identity theft.

However, new legislation is currently on its way to the Governor's desk for signature that will further protect our foster youth. If enacted, Assembly Bill 1324 (Bass) will provide authority for counties to release information to credit agencies on behalf of foster youth to both remedy instances of identity theft and to help suppress the identities of foster youth from vulnerability. This is an important step in the right direction of fully protecting the futures of the nearly 5,600 youth, ages 16 and over, currently under DCFS supervision.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer to draft a five signature letter in support of AB 1324; and urge the Governor to sign this important legislation into law without delay.

**MOTION**

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

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YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_